The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 36. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1919. WHOLE NO. 452.

LOCKOUT OF WORKERS IGNORED BY PUBLIC

Washington, Nov. 25.—In reply to queries by a New York newspaper regarding compulsory arbitration, labor's right to strike and the public's concurrence in lineal with the strike, President Gompers asks:

"Is it fair to assume that you have never heard of lockouts by employers, or the victimization or the blacklisting of workmen or of a starvation policy to force workers to the employers will?"

"When the employers in an industry increase prices nation-wide," said President Gompers, "there is no enforcement to prevent the profiteering. But when a working man asks for a sufficient wage to support himself and bring a little joy into the lives of his loved ones, the cry goes up that it is un-American, disloyal and every stigma is hurled at him.

"A workman must convince his employer that he is entitled to an advance in wages. This can be done only by negotiation, which is the right to strike as a leverage and a last resort. Failing that, the public steps in and joins the employer in denouncing the strikers. This is because the public must get a sense of fairness and comfort.

"Why should the wage earner work for less than living wages, which he would have to do if he could not strike? A worker is entitled to continue to work at whatever wages his employer is willing to give him in order to save the public from inconvenience. The employer is always right; the employe always wrong in the eyes of the misinformed public.

"What is to confine the future demands or strikes within the limits of justice and reason?" you ask. What are the bounds of reason and justice when applied to a workers' wage? Is he not entitled to have something to say as to what he shall get? Should he submit his case to the general public for a decision when he knows in advance the unanimous apprehensive of the slightest inconvenience?

"A nation-wide strike would not some unless the employers refused to enter into a fair agreement. The worker is always ready to meet his employer half way. The employer refuses to meet that far in any case, but unites unless faced by a strike. The question of reason and justice, then, or force, is as much of an issue for the employer as the employe. Why should the employer refuse justice and force a strike?"

U. S. HEALTH HINTS.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The United States public health service has issued these health hints:

Thousands of children are killed every year because parents say: "What's the use of a doctor?" and permit the little ones to expose themselves to whooping cough, measles and scarlet fever.

Industrial accidents killed 1,600 persons and seriously injured 40,000 in the state of Pennsylvania in 1917. Most of such accidents are preventable; mere result of carelessness.

Cultivate the habit of walking with head up and the chest thrown back. It is cheaper and better than bottled tonics.

Heart diseases kill more people than the deadliest wars. In 1917 pneumonia and tuberculosis killed 20,000 more persons than seven times the number killed in action in France.

Heart disease caused 10,000 deaths in 1917 than any other ailment (115,335). Right living would materially reduce them. Don't wait for heart disease to develop before you see your physician.

Carelessness with the hands and teeth causes more deaths in America every year than carelessness with motor vehicles. Keep the hands clean, free from germs, away from the mouth and visit the dentist regularly.

Do not take drugs to cure the headache. Often the eyes or the teeth may be at fault.

A person may live weeks without food, days without water, but only a few minutes without air. Become a fresh air crank.

HAS LAW-AND-ORDER PLAN.

New York, Nov. 25.—In a speech in this city, Frederick Lorenz of the Delaware & Hudson railroad company offered several suggestions for enforcing law and order. He would confine the voting privilege to those who could read and write English, that anti-picketing laws and other legislation to maintain the spirit of our institutions could be passed. He would also have unions held responsible for the acts of their members, have communities organize so-called "open shop" associations and stage strikes during strikes.

The speaker condemned the use of the hyphen in our American life and insisted that the use of the "capital-American farm or the 'labor-American' can" term should not be tolerated. While no one could be found there to object, the point "went big" as stage folk say.

Mr. Lorenz condemned the soviets of Russia which "rule like czars," despite the boasted democracy of that land. He said he denounces tyranny the same the other of the world, but no mention was made of the tyranny of a certain steel magnate in our own country, of the despotism of Rockefeller Judge.

Mr. Lorenz was a member of the employers' group in the Washington first industrial conference. He was one of the leaders in the fight against collective bargaining and arbitrating the steel strike.

PRICES GOING UP.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Despite the government's campaign to reduce living costs, the cost of the average list of food showed further advances in October, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics. Farm and raw advanced 4 per cent; provisions and foods generally were prepared and fresh milk, coffee and prunes, 3 per cent; pork chops, lard, rye, corn meal, rolled oats, navy beans and sugar 2 per cent; canned salmon, macaroni, cornstarch, rice, oatmeal and oranges, 1 per cent.

Ham, cured anything and tea increased less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

MILLIONS OF TAXES DODGED.

Washington, Nov. 25.—The treasury department is preparing to collect taxes amounting to $200,000,000 that have been dodged. The drive is primarily aimed at business concerns, but many individuals will be included. It is stressed that undistributable property and profits will be taxed, as well as those distributed by the government this fiscal year.

MEN OF FOREIGN BIRTH ARE NOT PRAISED NOW

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 23.—"The foreign born trouble maker" is a common expression that can be found in every issue of the daily press these days, says the Amalgamated Journal, official magazine of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

(INSERT MEN OF FOREIGN BIRTH The labor paper shows that those foreign born steel workers have introduced unionism in the government, spurred on by industrial organizers, has combed the at [illegible] one in an effort to prove [illegible] ement Un-American when [illegible] demands American living standards.

"What a change in a few years! Ten years ago, when the United States steel corporation decided to non-unionize its sheet and tin mills and found that the American workers were far from desirous of trade unionists, it advertised that Greeks, Poles and Roumanians were preferred.

"To counteract the splendid stand that foreign born workers were making for the eight-hour day, living wages and better conditions, employers have been hiding behind the un-American and as enemy of the institutions of our country.

"The foreign-bo steel worker is demonstrating [illegible] te is 100 per cent American, [illegible] ore by a readjustment of his work and living conditions.

"The daily press has been inciting the public with all the venom that is in it, that the foreign born are making for the eight-hour day, living wages and better conditions, employing an alien or a citizen; yet how few has the department of justice been able to convict under any seditious movement. The government, influenced by the steel profits, has combed the strike centers for evidence, but finds it is all businesslike manufactured by influence the public against the steel strike and to disbarten the foreign-born workers. The cry is used in stampeding him into the steel mills. The fact that he is striking firm for the principle of self-determination in industry stamps him as being intensely American."

O. B. U. FADES AWAY

Toronto, Ontario, Nov. 23.—The Industrial Banner is amused at the claims of a Vancouver one-big-union publication, which declares that the O. B. U. is making remarkable progress in Ontario.

"As a matter of fact," says the Industrial Banner, "there is nothing in Toronto at the present time that is more ready for the funeral than the o. b. u., for it is as dead as it possibly could be in the short time, and nobody takes it seriously now. There was a time when it did cause a little excitement, but even the editors were orating nearly every night in the vicinity of the city hall and people, who at first flirted with the phenomenon, do not [illegible] with them even if it now.

"What is true of Toronto is also true of other industrial centers in the province of Ontario. The o. b. u. is dead for the time being in most of the province, and being on the spot we are in a position to know the situation to know than a paper published more than half a continent away."

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Nov. 22.—Organized labor is not dead yet. It makes one laugh to read in one-big-union publications that the Edmonton labor trade union movement has been overthrown. The labor movement is not an unfruitful propaganda" and declares that the opposite is true. It is stated that Calgary is being misrepresented the same way, although the secessionist movement in that city is practically non-existent. In other sections of northwestern Canada the O. B. U. is the same anarchistic out a distant city and tell of their wonderful gains.

UNIONIST MUST GO TO JAIL.

Chicago, Nov. 25. — The United States supreme court has affirmed a decision of the United States circuit court that Charles Dold, president of the Piano and Organ Workers' International union, must serve 30 days in jail and pay a $100 fine for violating an injunction.

On October 1, 1917, employes of this union suspended work at the factory of Aeolian Weber, after which they were refused wage increases and several of their number were discharged.

Their wages ranged from 32 to 38 cents an hour. Judge Smith of the superior court, this city, issued an injunction against the strikers, who were denied the right to picket. The workers ignored this command, were arrested and brought before Judge Smith's order and President Dold was fined $500 and sentenced to 30 days in jail.

The appeal by the unionists the state supreme court sustained the decision. One of these judges declared: "Even though the injunction issued by Judge Smith was too broad in that did not give the workers the right to violate any part of the injunction."

Judge Smith's action is in line with decisions by the state supreme court, which bear the stamp of disapproval on picketing.

UNIONIST KIDNAPPED.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 25.—Law and order in this city is shown to exist in this city when J. B. Lawson was kidnapped, stripped, thrown into an automobile and deported to Springfield, the state, and then told to "get out of town," it is asserted.

Lawson is a representative of the International Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, and was in this city at the time in request of the local street car men's union to assist them. The unionists have been arrested, but no warrant was issued against him, it is declared. Each of the mob is charged with $1,000 for the "apprehension, arrest and conviction" of the mobsters.

STEAM ENGINEERS GAIN.

New York, Nov. 22.—Steam Engineers' union No. 184 has established a new rate of $60 a week. If a man is ordered to report for work and is later told there is no work he is paid $10 a day.

RAISE WAGES $2 A DAY.

New York, Nov. 24.—Organized tunnel and subway constructors have granted wage raise of $2 a day effective the first of the year.

"Government Broke Labor Pledge"--Gompers

Washington, Nov. 25.—At a mass meeting held under the auspices of the central labor union, President Gompers presented documentary evidence to support the charge that the government broke its promise to labor when the Lever food control act was passed by congress, that this legislation was not intended to be used against workers when they suspended work to improve their conditions.

The evidence submitted by President Gompers included the following: On June 22, 1917, when the bill was being discussed in the house, Congressman Lever declared that strikes be specifically exempted. Congressman Lever, the author of the bill, said (Congressional Record, page 4436):

"If there were such a combination in strike for the purpose of bettering living conditions or increasing wages there is no purpose in this bill, and there is no authority in this bill to prevent it."

The following day Congressman Keating read into the Congressional Record (page 4511) a statement to Congressman Lever by the food administrator, Mr. Hoover, who said, in part: "I do not see in the power my views upon you, but simply to emphasize it is not the intention of the bill is regular wages. It might do no harm to satisfy this gentleman's mind by a statement that they are immune from attack."

At the request of the A. F. L. executive council Senator Hollis prepared an amendment to the bill that nothing in the bill or its regulations would affect sections 6 or 20 of the Clayton law. The senate adopted this amendment, but it was stricken out when the bill went to conference.

When the bill came back to the senate Mr. Hollis called attention to the elimination of his amendment, and Senator Chamberlain, who was in charge of the bill, said (Congressional Record, page 6433):

"I have not any fear that in the administration of the food law anything would be attempted by the president or by the agencies which he has power to set up to the end to prevent any labor or other organization from doing that which lawful way all that they can now do under the Clayton law to protect themselves and their rights without any saving clause in the bill under consideration. It is not necessary in this bill in order to protect rights."

At a joint meeting on August 6, 1917, of the advisory commission and the council of national defense of that agency, Secretary of Commerce Redfield, that the matter should be brought to the attention of the president.

The next day Secretary of Labor Wilson called on President Gompers that he had talked with the president on this matter. President Gompers then directed the secretary a memoranda of this conversation, in which he says that the president agreed that labor's fear might be well grounded but that the law was passed in order those "who were handling products that labor produces were engaged in their production or distribution in the form of labor" and that if the bill was delayed by an attempt to amend it so labor would be specifically protected this would play into the hands of speculators and exploiters. The president was also reported as saying that the matter rested with the attorney general who would notify all district attorneys not to bring cases against workmen in contravention to the provisions of the Clayton law.

At a conference between Attorney General Gregory, President Gompers and Secretary Wilson on August 7, the attorney general said he would instruct district attorneys not to construe the bill as interfering in any way with the normal activities of labor.

The telegram from Secretary of Labor Wilson to President Gompers were corroborated August 10 when Secretary Wilson stated the secretary had conversed, told of the conference with the latter. Senator Husting's statement in the senate, August 8, clinches the fact that the president of the United States was correctly quoted when the claim was made that he had endorsed the statement of Attorney General Gregory by saying:

"I voted for the substitution under the bill when it becomes law will depend upon the district attorneys, and the instructions left in the hands of and would from the attorney general. I have in my hand telegrams from attorneys instructing them not to bring cases against workmen in contravention of the provisions of the Clayton law."

Senator Husting made this statement in the senate on August 8. (Congressional Record, page 6481):

"I voted for the Hollis amendment to the bill, which provided that the provisions of the bill should not be construed to prevent strikes or peaceful picketing or any way amend or repeal the provisions of the Clayton act. I would not favor the claims striking out this amendment if I thought it had that effect. I do not think it has that effect.

Senator Reed asked Senator Husting if he has talked with the attorney general. Senator Husting replied:

"I will say that I have not. I have not talked with the attorney general relative to this bill. His construction of labor advised me that this was the opinion of the administration and the department of justice. He did not give it merely as a matter of belief on his part, but said he was authorized to so state."

Senator Husting this and other evidence to prove labor's charge of the administration's broken pledge, President Gompers said:

"While the discussion over the Hollis amendment was at its height the attorney general gave an opinion in the case of the Paine Lumber company that [illegible] It was held by the court that private individuals could not [illegible] injunctions. This was under anti-trust legislation. This encouraged the officials of labor to [illegible] interest left in the wording out of the Hollis amendment would not work to the injury of labor as it is only the government could institute prosecutions and the government had given assurances that it would not. And as the president and the attorney general had declared they had said there would be no prosecutions by the department of justice, labor felt safe."

PRESIDENT CALLS AN INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

Washington, Nov. 29.—The president has created an industrial conference, a cabinet relations between capitalists and workers. This body succeeds the first conference, which convened last October, and consisted of representatives of workers, capitalists and the public. It dissolved because of the collective bargaining issue. The new conference is formed on new lines and there is no official recognition of distinctive groups.

The president stated that the conference should have concern itself only with matters to be conducted with such regard for justice and fair dealing that these conditions will be possible.

The workman will feel himself injured or put upon, and his efforts; the employer will have "an encouraging profit" and the public will not suffer at the hands of either class.

The 17 nominees include six lawyers. The completete list follows:

William B. Wilson, secretary of labor.

George W. Wickersham, New York, former United States attorney general.

Thomas W. Gregory, Austin, Texas, former United States attorney general.

Herbert Hoover, mining engineer and former food administrator.

Oscar S. Straus, New York, lawyer, manufacturer, former secretary of commerce and labor and former ambassador to Turkey.

Henry M. Robinson, Pasadena, Cal., banker and former member of the United States shipping board.

Prof. Frank W. Taussig, Cotuit, Mass., economist and former member of the United States tariff commission.

Samuel W. McCall, Boston, lawyer and former governor of Massachusetts.

Martin H. Glynn, Albany, N. Y., editor and former governor of New York.

Henry C. Stuart, Big Stone Gap, Va., lawyer and former governor of Virginia.

Dr. W. L. Dawson, Columbus, O., president of Ohio state university.

Richard Hooker, Springfield, Mass., publisher [illegible]

George T. Slade, St. Paul, Minn., lumber manufacturer.

Julius Rosenwald, Chicago, president Sears, Roebuck & Co., mail order house.

Owen D. Young, New York, lawyer.

B. M. Baruch, New York, banker.

President Kansas agricultural college.

Stanley King, Boston, lawyer and manufacturer.

The president informed these [illegible] that executive [illegible] to deal with any present situation and the conference is called that they may be fortunate enough to find such ways as will avoid the repetition of these deplorable conditions."

MINE CONTROL OPPOSED.

Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 25.—Governor Harding did not get very far with his plan to have the states take over the coal mines during the respective jurisdiction. Out of the first eight governors who replied to the suggestion, Cox, of Ohio, was the only one who favored the idea. Most of the governors believe federal government could handle the situation.

National Fuel Administrator Garfield also threw a brick in a telegram to Governor Harding in which he says: "It is impossible to comply with your suggestion that power to fix coal prices be granted upon the ground that were done similar requests from executive officials of various states could not consistently be refused, and federal control, which is supported by the people generally, would be lost. This control, exercised by the federal government, precludes independent state control of same subject matter. Please note that government price regulation will be applicable in Iowa whoever is in control of mines."

WON'T LET MINERS WORK.

Moundsville, W. Va., Nov. 29.—Nearly 200 miners voted to return to work at the mines of the Mineral Ridge Coal company upon the advice of a committee called at the office to notify the management of the effect given men ordered them off the premises. The coal owners told the miners they would be allowed to work only after living a company house are being evicted. Similar contracts in which they agree not to join the miners' union while in the employ of the company are said to be common to the one used by the Hitchman Coal and Coke company, the validity of which is upheld by the United States circuit court in 1917. This decision was overruled by Federal Judge Dayton, who restrained union organizers from soliciting members upon the contract to join the union. Judge Dayton held, in effect, that when a man breaks a contract, surrenders an American right, this action will be upheld by the courts in the enforcement of contracts.

The situation in this city has been called to the attention of Attorney General Palmer who is informed of the miners' difficulties with interference with the production of coal. As yet no federal injunction has been issued against the company.

MUCH WATER POWER.

Washington, Nov. 25.—In a map prepared by the United States geological survey it is shown that the water power resources of the United States range from 4.5 horse power per square mile for Nevada to 129 horse power per square mile for the state of Washington.

WANT 44-HOUR WEEK.

Toronto, Ontario, Nov. 26.—The Jewish Workers' union is agitating to ask for a 44-hour week and a weekly minimum of $15. A conference, preliminary, these workers are strolling non-unionists.

LABOR LAW VOIDED.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 25.—Circuit Court Judge Rutherford has declared unconstitutional the anti-scalping law passed by the last legislature.

New Industrial Conference May Bless Can't-Strike Plan

Washington, Nov. 25.—In the stage set for the president's new industrial conference to declare for legislation that will outlaw strikes.

The tendency in congress is for laws of this character, and some trade unionists are mentioning the opinion that the industrial conference—over one-third of whom are lay employers—will give its blessing to this movement that would abandon the workers' right to strike, providing them with some form of collective (?) bargaining that will not have a voice in shaping. To make the "can't-strike" plan appear fairly, authorities say, the U. S. Fed—and the employers will evade this prohibition, as they have always done.

A local newspaper states that "senators in touch with the labor problem say there is no solution for the industrial crisis save in a genuine handling of all disputes on a judicial and national basis." And that ruling out the A. F. of L. executive council Senator Hollis presented an amendment to the bill that nothing in the bill or its regulations would affect sections 6 or 20 of the Clayton law. The senate adopted this amendment, but it was stricken out when the bill went to conference.

When the bill came back to the senate Mr. Hollis called attention to the elimination of his amendment, and Senator Chamberlain, who was in charge of the bill, said (Congressional Record, page 6433):

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"I voted for the Hollis amendment

British Government Drops Scheme to Outlaw Strikes

London, England, Nov. 25.—The British government has dropped its scheme to make strikes illegal and to limit funds raised during existing financial aid to strikers. Trade union representatives voiced their objection to the plan.

These proposals were contained in a bill that would replace [illegible] the wages (temporarily regulation) act. An industrial court was to be created to which the decision could not be resisted by strike.

Press "Gets Out From Under" After Molding Public Opinion Against Striking Coal Miners

Washington, Nov. 29.—After lashing the public into a frenzy against coal miners who had formed unions in order to secure a living wage, newspapers that control the government have changed front since an injunction has been secured, the miners funds are tied up and the use of military power of the government is at the command of the injunction judge.

The change is startling to sense that coal owners have made amazing profits during the year 1917 they have been fighting to hold these profits while attempting to place wage increases on the backs of the public.

So bogeys are being thrown at the miners and the coal owners are left exposed on the wrist. In commenting on Former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo's statement that the average coal owners' profits that ranged from 15 per cent to 2,000 per cent, the New York Times declares that "the matter it affects a virtuous indignation and misunderstood declares:

"Such testimony cannot be ignored. If corroborated, it must convict the coal owners of the only sort of outrageous profiteering but of inhumanity. They have underpaid their labor and then overcharged the public. Furthermore, they have put their labor in the wrong and the public against it, but we do not know where to look for it."

JABS ANTI-STRIKE PLAN

New York, Nov. 26.—At the annual dinner of the academy of political science, Acting President Dixon, of Columbia university and Engineer men served notice on anti-strike advocates that they were starting a campaign they could never finish. In a straight-forward speech he declared that it was time that labor would not submit to the anti-strike provisions in the new industrial conference and the labor legislation.

The distinguished official declared that the same group and the same reasoning have attempted to continue the "open shop" drive by forcing the workers by denying them the right to form collective bargaining.

"These interests are also responsible for the failure of the national industrial conference called by President Wilson. They are also the financial backers of the anti-unionized mine workers and are at the bottom of the conspiracy to exploit both the public and the unorganized labor. Their purpose is to continue unchecked to reap extortionate profits at the expense of their employees and the public in which profitable policy they have been engaged prior to the war. We shall resist this conspiracy to the utmost."

SAY JUDGE WAS TRICKED.

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 29.—Coal owners have found a new reason why they should not pay the check-off. Anderson's order to go back to work, it is declared, was obtained by a statement issued by officers of the United Mine Workers, that the strike order "drew a check to declare our federal courts." Mr. Cushing's claim is worked overtime by the desperate coal owners in their efforts to get coal sent but the real one.

The miners, however, do not seem to be interested in this detail and are refusing to return to work until they back a satisfactory agreement.

SAME WEARY PRATTLE.

New York, Nov. 22.—At the annual convention of the National Electrical association President William H. Barr repeated his oft-told tale against the closed shop and the old yarn and gave the usual first-page publicity. Mr. Barr was re-elected president.

South African Trade Unionism Profits By Mistakes Of Others

Washington, Nov. 28.—Trade unionism in British South Africa is free from all political parties—labor and otherwise—and this has been found to be the best policy, said A. Crawford, general secretary of the South African industrial federation, at the offices of the American Federation of Labor. The trade unionist is representing the workers of South Africa at the international labor conference here.

"There is a labor party in our country," said Secretary Crawford, "and in the South African Industrial congress as a strong sentiment for it, but the industrial federation, through its economic methods, and the development of public opinion, is the workers' strongest force. We do not fight the political labor party but we reserve the right to nominate trade union candidates in opposition to any and every political party, and we have done so even in opposition to the labor party in a few municipal elections where we have been identified with certain policies of the labor party.

"For 20 years prior to the war trade unions affiliated with the political labor party. It was found, however, that the trade union movement is dictated on political independence from political parties.

"This condition was illustrated at the beginning of the late war when the miners' union withdrew from the Canadian border south Omaha to the Gulf of Mexico. The miners' union of this latter to the Atlantic ocean approximates the size of British South Africa."

GUARANTEED RIGHTS DENIED BY PALMER

Nokomis, Ill., Nov. 29.—In a protest to Attorney General Palmer against Garfield's coal and iron miners' injunction, the miners at this place declare that they will defend the right of free speech, free press and peaceful assemblage.

"We act individually and collectively protest," say these miners, "against the injunction. Our officers are regularly elected and duly constituted spokesmen of our organization. Likewise the freedom of speech is suspended. They are not allowed to confer with their fellow workers by mail or through the medium of our official journal. They are denied access to the membership of our organization, regarding the conduct of the strike. Likewise our right to strike is suspended. They are not allowed to confer with the membership of our union, free freedom of peaceful assembly is suspended.

"A statement attributed to you insists upon keeping up production in this instance in no way interferes with the right of men to strike, and their right to strike, while at the same time you have refused to set forth your views on constitutional rights, and rendered useless and inoperative the machinery of conciliation and functions of arbitration. And you are deliberately attempting disorganize us, and to break up our strike by the use of government agents and troops in the serious coal producing districts of the country."

CHILD LABOR AGE AT 14.

Washington, Nov. 23.—The international labor conference has voted to recommend to the governments represented an international agreement regulating child labor and prohibiting employment of children at 14 years, except for Japan, India and a few other Far-east countries, where the limit is placed at 15 years because the representatives of these governments declared that the time had not arrived to make such a "radical" change.

The labor office will soon be established in the United States, through which information as to the working of these countries may be obtained. The office is to publish annually a report of the operations of the labor laws of the various countries represented.

"It can be taken for granted that the income tax returns of these companies are more likely to understate than to overstate net earning power for the purpose of taxation.

MINES ORDERED RETURNED.

Bismarck, N. Dak., Nov. 25.—District Court Judge Nuessle has issued a sweeping order restraining the state officials and the state militia from using military officials to return to their mines coal miners who have left their seized under instructions of Gov. Frazier, in an attempt to secure control of the mines for the state.

"It seems to me that it amounts to the same thing as though I put my hand to involuntary servitude," said the judge in reviewing the points at issue.

The court indicated a fear that the operators would not abide by the order, thereby plunging the state into civil war, because the court would appoint deputies to enforce his order.

Fargo, N. Dak., Nov. 26.—The state has issued a similar injunction at Fargo.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Nov. 25.—The American Pressman, official magazine of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union, has announced advances by affiliates of this organization. Locals in practically all United States and Canada is represented and the gains include wage increases, shorter hours and improved working conditions that were invariably secured through negotiations of 60 per cent organizations.

COMPULSORY TRAINING.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Compulsory military training for the regular army of 500,000 men is favored by Gen. March, chief of staff of the army in his annual report. Gen. March bases his estimate on the army organization as a practical unit complete organization. He says that a force of 500,000 men would make the army 300,000.

HUGE COAL PROFITS EXPOSED BY M'ADOO

New York, Nov. 29.—"Shocking and indefensible" profits, ranging as high as 2,000 per cent, were made by coal owners in 1917, declared former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo in a telegram to the Federal Anthracite Garfield, who is urged not to permit the coal owners to add a shirt wage increases to the public.

In referring to the "shocking and indefensible" profits of the coal owners, the ex-cabinet official said:

"In connection with the statement of the treasury, I examined in May, 1918, the income returns in the treasury. Before declaring of excess profits taxes—which were less than 20 per cent—I found these showed earnings on capital stock ranging from 15 per cent to 2,000 per cent. Earnings of 100 to 300 per cent on capital stock were not uncommon.

"In a report made by the treasury in response to my request for information protesting in 1918 some striking increases as to the earnings of various companies engaged in production of necessaries of life, including coal. I regret I do not know what the profits of the bituminous coal mines were in 1917, since I left the treasury in December, 1918. Reports were not filed until March, 1919. I am sure, however, that the profits as earned by the bituminous coal mines in 1917, it would be a grave wrong to permit the operators to take from the public additional profits in the form of increased prices for bituminous coal.

"Moreover, if profits were even measurably as great in 1918 as in 1917, the operators can well afford to pay the increased wages to the miners and make a more than larger return upon the capital employed than they have been accustomed to.

"It is easy to see that these income tax returns be published. They ought to be published so that the public may know exactly what the true facts are about the earnings of the operators of coal mines. They are entitled to this protection. I can see no reason why it should be withheld, since the law permits it in certain circumstances.

"It can be taken for granted that the income tax returns of these companies are more likely to understate than to overstate net earning power for the purpose of taxation."

METAL POLISHERS GAIN.

New York, Nov. 22.—Nearly half a hundred firms have signed the wage agreement of Metal Polishers' unions Nos. 1 and 2. The eight-hour day is established as is an 8-cent minimum.

Cincinnati, Nov. 22.—Striking metal polishers employed by the Cincinnati roofing company have secured the eight-hour day and wage increases.

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 25.—Metal polishers have included in an agreement by the Underwood Typewriter company that the work week will be reduced from 54 to 50 hours.

Cincinnati, Nov. 25.—Officers of the Metal Polishers' International union and Metal Trades union have been engaged in New Athens and Sterling, Ill.; Burlington, Wis., and Stamford, Conn.

FEENEY IS CHIEF REFEREE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 28. — Frank Feeney, president of the Elevator Constructors' International union, has been appointed supervising referee for the state workmen's compensation law. This position was created by the last legislature and pays a salary of $6,000 a year.

HIGH COSTS IN ENGLAND.

London, England, Nov. 29.—The Labor Gazette, published by the government, declares that the average cost of retail prices of food and other items on October 1 was 120 per cent above the average cost as compared with 125 per cent a month earlier.